Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1.-30. (Cancelled)

31. (Previously Presented) A method of comparing an input name and a stored name, the method comprising:

accessing an input name of a particular culture;

accessing a stored name of the particular culture;

selecting an algorithm that is based on names in the particular culture;

selecting a second algorithm that is based on names in the particular culture, wherein the algorithm and the second algorithm are based on independent linguistic features of the particular culture;

comparing the input name and the stored name using the algorithm;

comparing the input name and the stored name using the second algorithm; and

providing a non-binary indication of whether the input name matches the stored name based on (i) the comparing of the input name and the stored name using the algorithm and (ii) the comparing of the input name and the stored name using the second algorithm.

32. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 31 wherein selecting the algorithm comprises:

selecting a set of algorithms based on names in the particular culture, the set of algorithms being selected from among multiple sets of algorithms, each set of algorithms being based on names in a different culture; and

selecting the algorithm from the set of algorithms.

33. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 31 wherein selecting the algorithm comprises selecting the algorithm from among multiple algorithms, each algorithm being based on names in a different culture.

34. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 31 wherein providing the indication comprises providing an indication that the input name matches the stored name.

35. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 31 further comprising:

accessing a second stored name of the particular culture;

comparing the input name and the second stored name using the algorithm; and

providing an indication of whether the input name matches the second stored name based on the comparing of the input name and the second stored name.

36. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 35 wherein:

providing the indication of whether the input name matches the stored name comprises providing an indication that the input name matches the stored name, and

providing the indication of whether the input name matches the second stored name comprises providing an indication that the input name matches the second stored name.

37. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 35 wherein:

comparing the input name and the stored name comprises producing a score indicating likelihood of the input name matching the stored name, and

comparing the input name and the second stored name comprises producing a second score indicating likelihood of the input name matching the second stored name.

38. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 37 further comprising ranking the stored name and the second stored name based on the score and the second score.

39. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 31 wherein comparing the input name and the stored name comprises segmenting the input name into different types of elements, the segmenting being based on the particular culture.

40. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 39 wherein segmenting the input name is based on a space in the input name.

41. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 39 wherein segmenting the input name contributes to a determination of where a space should appear in the input name.

42. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 39 wherein comparing the input name and the stored name further comprises assigning a weight to an element of the input name based on the particular culture and based on a type of the element, the weight indicating a relative amount of identifying information expected to be contained in the element.

43. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 42 wherein assigning the weight comprises assigning a relatively low weight to the element.

44. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 43 wherein the element comprises a title.

45. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 43 wherein the element comprises an affix.

46. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 43 wherein the element comprises a qualifier.

47. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 31 wherein the algorithm is based on a naming convention in the particular culture, and comparing comprises comparing using the algorithm that is based on the naming convention.

48. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 47 wherein the naming convention includes information on which name element has the most valuable identifying information.

49. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 48 wherein the naming convention identifies the last of multiple surnames as having the most valuable identifying information.

50. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 31 wherein comparing comprises producing a score indicating likelihood of the input name matching the stored name.

51. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 50 wherein providing the indication comprises providing the score.

52. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 51 wherein providing the score comprises providing the score to a user.

53. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 50 wherein the score is non-binary.

54. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 50 wherein the score indicates a partial match between the input name and the stored name.

55. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 31 wherein comparing the input name and the stored name using the algorithm comprises comparing phonological similarity of the input name and the stored name.

56. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 31 wherein comparing the input name and the stored name using the algorithm comprises comparing orthographic similarity of the input name and the stored name.

57. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 31 wherein comparing the input name and the stored name using the algorithm comprises comparing syntax of elements of the input name and elements of the stored name.

58. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 31 wherein comparing the input name and the stored name using the algorithm comprises comparing semantic equivalence of the input name and the stored name.

59. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 56 wherein comparing the input name and the stored name using the algorithm comprises performing an n-gram analysis of the input name and the stored name.

60. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 59 wherein performing the n-gram analysis comprises performing a digram analysis.

61. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 59 wherein performing the n-gram analysis considers position of n-grams within the input name and the stored name.

62. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 31 wherein comparing the input name and the stored name using the algorithm comprises comparing discrepancy in number of elements of the input name and the stored name.

63. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 31 wherein comparing the input name and the stored name using the algorithm comprises accounting for variations in spelling of the input name or the stored name.

64. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 31 wherein comparing the input name and the stored name using the algorithm comprises accounting for exclusion of expected information in the input name or the stored name.

65. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 31 wherein comparing the input name and the stored name using the algorithm comprises comparing positional information of the input name and the stored name.

66. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 31 wherein comparing the input name and the stored name using the algorithm comprises accounting for inclusion of additional information in the input name or the stored name.

67. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 31 wherein:

comparing the input name and the stored name comprises determining whether surnames of the input name and the stored name match, and

providing the indication comprises providing an indication that the input name does not match the stored name if surnames of the input name and the stored name do not match.

68. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 31 wherein:

the input name is a predictable variation of the stored name, and

providing the indication comprising providing an indication that the input name matches the stored name.

69. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 31 wherein:

the input name is a random variation of the stored name, and

providing the indication comprising providing an indication that the input name matches the stored name.

70. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 31 wherein:

the input name includes a first element randomly varied from the stored name and a second element predictably varied from the stored name, and

providing the indication comprising providing an indication that the input name matches the stored name.

71. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 31 wherein comparing the input name and the stored name is based on a user-configurable parameter.

72. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 31 wherein accessing the stored name comprises accessing a name that is stored in volatile memory.

73. (Previously Presented) A method of comparing an input name and a stored name, the method comprising:

accessing an input name of a particular culture;

accessing a stored name of the particular culture;

selecting an algorithm that is based on names in the particular culture;

comparing phonological similarity of the input name and the stored name using the algorithm;

providing an indication of whether the input name matches the stored name based on the comparing of the input name and the stored name using the algorithm.

74. (Previously Presented) A method of comparing an input name and a stored name, the method comprising:

accessing an input name of a particular culture;

accessing a stored name of the particular culture;

selecting an algorithm that is based on names in the particular culture;

comparing semantic equivalence of the input name and the stored name using the algorithm;

providing an indication of whether the input name matches the stored name based on the comparing of the input name and the stored name using the algorithm.

75. (Previously Presented) A method of providing an indication of whether an input name belongs to a particular culture, the method comprising:

accessing an input name;

accessing a classifying algorithm that is based on linguistic analysis of names in a particular culture;

accessing another classifying algorithm, the other classifying algorithm being based on linguistic analysis of names in another culture;

processing the input name using the classifying algorithm;

processing the input name using the other classifying algorithm;

providing an indication of whether the input name belongs to the particular culture based on the processing of the input name using the classifying algorithm; and

providing an indication of whether the input name belongs to the other culture based on the processing of the input name using the other classifying algorithm.

76. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 75 further comprising:

accessing a second classifying algorithm that is based on linguistic analysis of names in the particular culture; and

processing the input name using the second classifying algorithm.

77. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 76 wherein providing the indication is further based on the processing of the input name using the second classifying algorithm.

78. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 76 wherein the classifying algorithm and the second classifying algorithm each relate to independent linguistic features.

79. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 76 wherein:

processing the input name using the classifying algorithm comprises producing a result,

processing the input name using the second classifying algorithm comprises producing a second result, and

the method further comprises accumulating and weighing the result and the second result.

80. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 79 wherein accumulating and weighing the result and the second result comprises applying an order of precedence to the result and the second result.

81. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 75 wherein processing the input name using the classifying algorithm comprises producing a result.

82. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 81 wherein processing the input name using the classifying algorithm further comprises generating a confidence level for the result.

83. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 75 wherein providing the indication of whether the input name belongs to the particular culture comprises providing an indication of whether the input name belongs to a particular language.

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84. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 75 wherein the classifying algorithm is orthographic based, and processing the input name comprises analyzing characters in the input name.

85. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 84 wherein processing the input name comprises analyzing an affix in the input name.

86. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 75 wherein processing the input name comprises comparing digrams in the input name to digrams present in names from the particular culture.

87. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 86 wherein processing the input name further comprises computing a likelihood that the input name belongs to the particular culture based on digram distribution statistics for names from the particular culture.

88. (Previously Presented) The method claim 87 wherein computing the likelihood is further based on digram position within the input name.

89. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 75 wherein the classifying algorithm is element based, and processing the input name comprises analyzing elements in the input name.

90. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 89 wherein processing the input name comprises analyzing a title in the input name.

91. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 89 wherein processing the input name comprises analyzing a qualifier in the input name.

92. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 75 wherein the classifying algorithm is semantic based, and processing the input name comprises analyzing meaning in the input name.

93. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 75 wherein the classifying algorithm is phonologically based, and processing the input name comprises analyzing a sound in the input name.

94. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 75 wherein the classifying algorithm is syntactic based, and processing the input name comprises analyzing an order of elements in the input name.

95. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 75 wherein providing the indication of whether the input name belongs to the particular culture comprises providing a non-binary indication of a degree to which the input name belongs to the particular culture.

96. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 75 wherein:
the input name is a full name including a given name and a surname,
accessing the input name comprises accessing the full name, and
processing the input name comprises processing the full name.

97. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 75 wherein:
the input name is a partial name,
accessing the input name comprises accessing the partial name, and
processing the input name comprises processing the partial name.

98. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 75 wherein processing the input name comprises comparing the input name to a high-frequency name in the particular culture.

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99. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 75 wherein processing the input name comprises comparing a length of the input name to lengths of names in the particular culture.

100. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 75 wherein processing the input name comprises comparing the input name to a string of characters that occurs in names in the particular culture.

101. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 100 wherein the string of characters comprises a morpheme in the particular culture, and processing the input name comprises comparing the input name to the morpheme.

102. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 75 wherein providing the indication comprises providing a likelihood that the input name belongs to the particular culture.

103. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 75 wherein:

providing the indication of whether the input name belongs to the particular culture comprises providing an indication that the input name does belong to the particular culture, and

providing the indication of whether the input name belongs to the other culture comprises providing an indication that the input name does belong to the other culture.

104. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 75 wherein providing the indication comprises providing the indication to a user.

105. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 75 wherein providing the indication comprises providing the indication to another algorithm.

106. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 75 wherein accessing the classifying algorithm comprises accessing the classifying algorithm from among multiple algorithms, the multiple algorithms each being based on linguistic analysis of names in a different culture such that no two algorithms are based on the same culture.

107. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 75 wherein providing the indication comprises providing an indication that the input name belongs to the particular culture, and the method further comprises:

accessing a stored name of the particular culture;

selecting a comparing algorithm that is based on names in the particular culture;

comparing the input name and the stored name using the comparing algorithm; and

providing an indication of whether the input name matches the stored name based on the comparing of the input name and the stored name.

108. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 107 wherein selecting the comparing algorithm comprises selecting the comparing algorithm from among multiple comparing algorithms, each comparing algorithm being based on names in a different culture such that no two comparing algorithms are based on the same culture.

109. (Previously Presented) A method of providing an indication of whether an input name belongs to a particular culture, the method comprising:

accessing an input name;

accessing a classifying algorithm that is based on linguistic analysis of names in a particular culture, wherein the classifying algorithm is semantic based;

processing the input name using the classifying algorithm, the processing including analyzing meaning in the input name; and

providing an indication of whether the input name belongs to the particular culture based on the processing of the input name using the classifying algorithm.

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110. (Previously Presented) A method of providing an indication of whether an input name belongs to a particular culture, the method comprising:

accessing an input name;

accessing a classifying algorithm that is based on linguistic analysis of names in a particular culture, wherein the classifying algorithm is phonologically based;

processing the input name using the classifying algorithm, the processing including analyzing a sound in the input name; and

providing an indication of whether the input name belongs to the particular culture based on the processing of the input name using the classifying algorithm.

111. (Previously Presented) A method of providing an indication of whether an input name belongs to a particular culture, the method comprising:

accessing an input name;

accessing a classifying algorithm that is based on linguistic analysis of names in a particular culture, wherein the classifying algorithm is based on morphemes;

processing the input name using the classifying algorithm, the processing including comparing the input name to a morpheme from the particular culture; and

providing an indication of whether the input name belongs to the particular culture based on the processing of the input name using the classifying algorithm.

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112. (New) An apparatus comprising a computer readable medium having instructions stored thereon that when executed by a machine result in at least the following:

accessing an input name of a particular culture;

accessing a stored name of the particular culture;

selecting an algorithm that is based on names in the particular culture;

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selecting a second algorithm that is based on names in the particular culture, wherein the algorithm and the second algorithm are based on independent linguistic features of the particular culture;

comparing the input name and the stored name using the algorithm;

comparing the input name and the stored name using the second algorithm; and

providing a non-binary indication of whether the input name matches the stored name based on (i) the comparing of the input name and the stored name using the algorithm and (ii) the comparing of the input name and the stored name using the second algorithm.

113. (New) An apparatus comprising a computer readable medium having instructions stored thereon that when executed by a machine result in at least the following:

accessing an input name;

accessing a classifying algorithm that is based on linguistic analysis of names in a particular culture;

accessing another classifying algorithm, the other classifying algorithm being based on linguistic analysis of names in another culture;

processing the input name using the classifying algorithm;

processing the input name using the other classifying algorithm;

providing an indication of whether the input name belongs to the particular culture based on the processing of the input name using the classifying algorithm; and

providing an indication of whether the input name belongs to the other culture based on the processing of the input name using the other classifying algorithm.